

Final Report

to

Ms. Lillian Lee

Solar Cookers for Impoverished Tibetan Households

What? 16 solar cookers for 92 Tibetans (16 Tibetan households)

Where? Gure རྒྱུ་རུ (Gulei 古雷) Village, Dobei རོ་བེལ (Daowei 道帏), Xunhua རྩོན་ཁྲོ (循化) Salar Autonomous County, Qinghai རེ་ཆོ་ལྗོངས་ (青海) Province

Cost? Total = 3,000 RMB (31.25RMB/ 4.46USD per recipient); Ms. Lee = 2,520 RMB;
Local = 480 RMB

Rural households in Qinghai Provinces generally use inefficient, polluting energy sources—animal dung, straw, wood, sod, and coal. The implications of such on the health and safety of family members, particularly very young children and women and girls, is so serious that indoor air pollution is now rated by the World Health Organization as the second most dangerous environmental health risk in rural areas (after dirty water and poor sanitation). These solar cookers have lessened this health risk for 92 Tibetans, and, in addition, have reduced the collection of organic materials, benefitting the local environment.

Dear Ms. Lillian Lee,

I am glad to report on the completion of the solar cooker project that was implemented with your generous contribution. On behalf of the beneficiaries, I present my most sincere appreciation for your generosity and kindness.

Upon receiving the 2,520 RMB, I contacted my local assistant in Dobei ལོ་ ལྷོས (Daowei 道伟) Township. Through discussions with village leaders and elders, he selected sixteen households from Gure རྒྱུ་ རྩ (Gulei 古雷) Village in Daowei Township. He also collected thirty RMB from each household as local contribution, which was also used to buy solar cookers. With the combined funds, he purchased sixteen solar cookers and had them delivered to the village.

The recipient households are poor families who never had solar cookers prior to the project. Their lives, and particularly the lives of women and girls, are now easier than before. This project also creates income generating opportunities for the village women because they spend less time collecting fuel.

Sincerely,

Lugyal (Simon) 

Final Report on Solar Cooker Project

Project Name: Solar Cooker Project for Gure Village

Project Location: Gure Village དགུ་རུ་ཕྱོད་, Daowei Township ལྷོ་ཕྱོད་ཁང་, Xunhua རྩོམ་ཁྲུ (循化) Salar Autonomous County, Qinghai རྩོམ་ཁྲུ (青海) Province.

Donor: Ms. Lillian Lee

Project Implementing Agency: Friend of Rural Community Development

Project Cost:

- Total Cost: 3,000 RMB
- Ms. Lee's Contribution: 2,520 RMB
- Local Contribution: 480 RMB

Project Summary:

Ms. Lee contributed 2,520 RMB that was used, with the local contribution of thirty RMB per recipient, to purchase sixteen solar cookers for a rural Tibetan village, benefiting ninety-two villagers (sixteen households).

Discussion with village leaders led to the selection of recipient households who are poor families in the village who never had solar cookers and lacked the money to purchase one.

Mr. Renchin རིན་ཆེན་, a local teacher and member of FRCD, was responsible for recipient selection, solar cooker distribution, and collecting the local contribution. He also reported the project activities to FRCD when the project was completed.

Project Impact:

The solar cooker project:

- Provides better opportunities for the village women to engage, with village men, in such other economic activities as collecting medicinal herbs and other wild plants to generate household income;
- Reduces the time women spend collecting fuel and working in smoky kitchens. Prior to the cooker project, families with solar cookers made ten trips (one trip = a nine hour walk to mountains and back home) to collect firewood in the mountains. However, families without solar cookers needed to make around twenty-five such trips to collect firewood. Likewise, families with solar cookers spend less than three hours a day in a smoky kitchen to cook in contrast to families without solar cookers who spent more than five hours per day in a smoky kitchen. Furthermore, the bundles of wood women carry are heavy, which negatively impacts women's health. The, at-times, narrow and steep paths, are also dangerous. The solar cookers reduced exposure to such hardship and danger;
- Allows elders to easily cook meals when other family members are not at home or otherwise unable to prepare food for them;

- Increases disposable income because most households spend about 500RMB annually. Previous solar cooker projects in the area suggest a family saves about 300RMB a year by decreased coal expenses;
- Increases the number of girls in school because the need for fuel gathering is reduced; and
- Solar cookers are environmentally friendly--villagers cut trees and dig bushes in the mountains, contributing to denuding the local landscape and soil erosion. The cookers reduce this negative impact.

Project Activities:

Date	Activities	Participants
13 December 2008	Selected beneficiaries; local contribution collected	Renchin
23 December 2008	Funds received	Lugyal
27 December 2008	Contacted solar cooker factory and reached agreement on cost and transportation	Lugyal
28 December 2008	Solar cookers were delivered and distributed to households	Renchin
16 February 2009	Final report	Lugyal

Recipients

RECIPIENT	No. of Family Members	Mark
ရွှေမယ်အောင်	12	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး	7	1
ဒေါ်အေး	5	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး	4	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး	4	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး (အောင်)	8	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး	5	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး	6	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး	7	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး	4	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး	4	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး (အောင်)	6	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး (အောင်)	5	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး	7	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး	7	1
ဒေါ်အောင်အေး	6	1

Recipients	Number of Family Members	Solar Cookers / Mark
Kalsang ལླལ་བཟང་།	12	1
Lhalong Tashi ལྷ་ལུང་བཀྲ་ཤིས།	7	1
Cailo ཆེ་ལྷོ།	5	1
Lhalong (older) ལྷ་ལུང་ཆེ་བ།	4	1
Konchok དགོན་མཚོ།	4	1
Yundan (younger) ཡོན་ཏན་ལུང་བ།	3	1
Lugyal (middle) ལྷ་རྒྱལ་འབྲིང་བ།	5	1
Leko ལྷ་གོ།	6	1
Zodpa བཟོད་པ།	7	1
Dorje Tso རྡོ་རྗེ་འཚོ།	4	1
Delo བདེ་ལོ།	4	1
Lugyal (older) ལྷ་རྒྱལ་ཆེ་བ།	6	1
Lhalong (younger) ལྷ་ལུང་ལུང་བ།	5	1
Lhako ལྷ་གོ།	7	1
Lugyal (younger) ལྷ་རྒྱལ་ལུང་བ།	7	1
Sangy Gyatso སངས་རྒྱས་རྒྱ་མཚོ།	6	1
Total: 16 households	92 people	16 solar cookers

Photographs



The solar cookers reach Gure Village



Villagers unload the solar cookers.



Dorjicu ལྷ་རྒྱལ་པོ་ is from a very poor family headed by a woman.



Local teacher, Mr. Renchin, was responsible for solar cooker distribution.



Lhako ལྷ་གོ་ is one of a family of seven, that includes her three children who attend school, her parents-in-law, and her disabled husband. She is solely responsible for collecting fuel for the family and other housework.



Kunsang Drolma ཀུན་བཟང་སྒྲོལ་མ་ attends Gure Primary School. Her family received a solar and her mother now spends less time fetching firewood.



Tseloter ཚེལ་ཐར་ and his son adjust their new solar cooker.



Tselo's ཚེལ་ཐར་ disabled wife cannot go to the mountains to collect firewood. Tselo was delighted with the solar cooker and said he now worries much less about collecting fuel. (The brush atop the roof will be burned for fuel.)